



# The Ripline

www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Union/BUHABS/

Issue 7

1999/2000

**NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY**

Welcome to a bumper issue of The Ripline, the final edition this academic year. The summer is coming and this means lots of opportunities for flying. Inside read about the fast approaching members' fortnight; summer events with BUHABS; an account of the Bath Balloon fiesta and article by the new PUT. You will also find a sheet to fill out for summer availability.

You will notice that The Ripline looks a bit different this issue. This is because editorial duties have now passed from Tim Locke to myself. I would like to thank Tim for all his efforts over the past year and during the production of this issue.

John Burnett

## MEMBERS' FORTNIGHT

**TWO FULL WEEKS OF BALLOONING FOR BUHABS MEMBERS**

**SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2000 - FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2000**

Picture this; it's the end of term, exams are over, the sun is shining, what could be better than hitching a ride in a Hot Air Balloon? BUHABS is offering you dedicated slots AM and PM every day (well, nearly every day), for the last two weeks of term. If you haven't been able to fly yet or want to get some more in, then this is an excellent opportunity. This means there are about 30 available slots, so you've no excuse now not to get air-bourne!

**SIGN UP LISTS IN PHYSICS BUILDING AS USUAL**

**WEEK 1: 12:00PM THU 8 JUNE - 4:00PM FRI 9 JUNE**

**WEEK 2: 12:00PM THU 15 JUNE - 4:00PM FRI 16 JUNE**

If you miss the list, call Simon Jenkins on the Friday evening on [REDACTED]

Maximum of three slots per person please.



## BUHABS 'CURRY AND A CLUB' NIGHT

**WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2000**



Come along to what promises to be the social event of the millennium. Slap-bang in the middle of Members' Fortnight, this is the ideal opportunity to celebrate the completion of exams. We will be going for a curry at Sultans on Cotham hill, then on for a few drinks at Finnegans Wake before heading off to a yet to be decided club. The evening will be a good time to sort out flying slots with Simon for Members Fortnight. If you are coming along to the curry please 'phone or email me at the details below, so we can get an idea of numbers. If you don't want a curry or just fancy a quick drink then meet us at Finnegans Wake. Don't forget to bring in your caption from page 5. Look forward to seeing you there, here are the times;

**7:30 PM - SULTANS PALACE - 39 Cotham hill**

**9:00 PM - FINNEGANS WAKE - 31 - 35 Cotham hill**

**CURRY EATERS CONTACT**

**JOHN BURNETT:** [REDACTED] / [REDACTED]

## BUHABS ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER

BUHABS members are involved with several events this year. First, Lee Hooper is going with team G-RAFE over to Todi, Italy, in late July. This promises to be an excellent trip, with flights planned for a whole week. They will even be attending a Night Glow in St. Peters Square, Rome.

Next is the Tesco GWRfm International Balloon Fiesta, ie the Bristol Balloon Fiesta, from August the 10th to the 13th. Not only is this rated as one of the top five outdoor events in the U.K., but our very own Mr Hooper is Flight Director. This Fiesta has to be witnessed to be believed, as all the people who get up at 5:00 AM and sit on Bedminster Down to view it are a testament. A word of warning if you plan to go to the night glow though - walk to it. My mother and I were sat in a car for two hours waiting to get out of the car park last year.

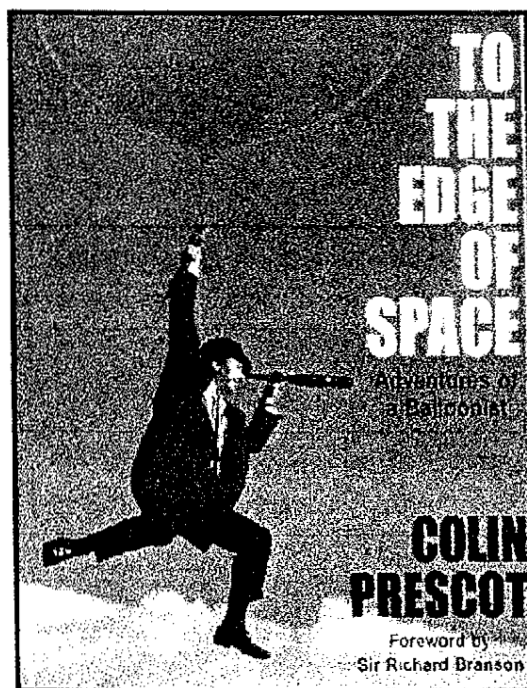
BUHABS is also entering the Northampton Balloon Championships from August the 18th to the 20th, as well as attending an adventure sport weekend in Shepton Mallet on July the 22nd and 23rd.

---

## MEET COLIN PRESCOT!

Who is Colin Prescott I hear you cry! Well, I'm sure most of you have seen the Tip Top latest Bond Movie 'The World Is Not Enough'. Remember the bit with a Hot Air Balloon on the Millenium Dome? Colin's Ballooning Career has led him to be currently involved with Hollywood, and of course, he worked on that famous scene.

He has now described his ballooning life in print in his book titled 'To the Edge of Space'. The book, with a foreword by Sir Richard Branson, describes his days as an advertising executive, before establishing a marketing and film agency which works on stunts and action sequences for films ('Flying Pictures'). It culminates in an account of th 1999 attempt to Circumnavigate the globe with Andy Elson in the Cable and Wireless Balloon. Ballooning U.K.



Now you can meet Colin at a presentation at Blackwells on Park Street (details below). There will be an hour-long presentation followed by a half-hour book sign. Tickets cost £2 and are available on the door or beforehand.

**7:00 PM THURSDAY 07 JUNE 2000**

**BLACKWELLS BOOKSELLERS, 89 PARK STREET, BRISTOL. 0117 9276602**

---

## WILLS BALL APPEARANCE

BUHABS will be operating the tether that is booked at the Wills Ball on Friday 16th June. This means that students will be able to have trips up and down all night. So, if you're going to this fine Ball, take a second during your drunken stupor to come and say hi to the BUHABS crew, freezing outside!

## TIM LOCKE FINDS FAME!

Our very own ex-editor and now Treasurer found a little bit of fame on Sunday 21 June. Mr Locke was interviewed live for BBC Radio 5! Apparently someone got his name from the Website and called him to do an interview regarding potential coverage of Hot Air Ballooning by the Beeb. It would certainly be a sport with potential for plenty of entries into Terry Wogans Aunties Bloomers.

As many of you will know, there are already a few famous folks amongst the echelons of BUHABS, and it would seem they have a new addition to their group. Before Tim knows it old ladies will be stopping him in the supermarket to say, 'I recognise your voice! You're that lovely young Balloonist I heard on the radio aren't you?'

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT - BATH BALLOON FIESTA 2000

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May BUHABS flew at the Bath Balloon Fiesta. This was my first experience piloting (albeit, as a trainee) at a Fiesta event. It was a lot of fun to be part of a big group launch of balloons (there must have been about 30 in total).

We were one of the last balloons to arrive on the launch site and managed to find the only small area left free to lay out our balloon. We launched from a sports field right in the centre of Bath City, and the low-level views of the City on climb out were spectacular. According to the Met forecast we would be heading in a NE direction out of Bath and possibly towards Colerne airfield. The conditions were perfect, light winds and a bright sunny morning. We took off at around 7am, Paul was observing my progress since our last training flight and Elaine, Sandra and Bronwyn all came along to enjoy the flight. Jim and Rebecca were left to try and keep up with us in the van.

The first task was to climb to a safe height over the City and then to study the map to find out where the wins were taking us - more towards the East of Bath than the forecast had suggested. Below we could see the Chubb fire extinguisher special shape balloon flying over the river and ahead were the balloons that had launched before us. We flew out in an Easterly direction and across Sham Castle golf course to try a couple of practice approaches and low level flying (a few meters off the ground). The first approach resulted in a gentle touch down in the grass just in front of a man walking his dog. We then flew across the golf green and called out

'Good Morning' to the groundsman on the way past. After the golf course we flew out high across the valley and saw the River Avon, Avon Walkway, Warleigh Weir and Pumping Station far down below. Ahead of us the Fiesta balloon and the Bath University Badgerline balloon were waiting in a field. A couple of other balloons had descended over woodland and had almost stopped above the trees in the very still surface wind. It's amazing how much the wind varies depending on your height and the topology of the land.

We made another practice approach into the field where Badgerline had been. This time I



**HOT AIR BALLOONS OVER BATH**

used a lot of Ripline and the landing was a little harder. Paul decided to take over for ten minutes in an attempt to get close to the Hare. Let me explain... There is a ballooning game called 'Hare and Hounds' where one balloon is designated the Hare and the rest the Hounds. The aim of the game is to land (or drop a marker) as close as possible to the landing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

space of the Hare. The Hare, in this case, had landed at the top of a golf course and we stayed down low in an attempt to drift left towards it. However there was not enough wind steerage to take us close enough and three hounds had already landed nearer.

We flew across the second golf course and observed another balloon doing a 'Splash 'n' Dash' in one of the lakes. We flew on and soon began to look for places to make a final landing. As we crossed a crop field a balloon beneath us was, bizarrely, flying at about 90 degrees to our own track. We decided to come down and catch the crosswind and try to land in a grass field that had already been used, for landing, by another balloon. Down we came

and sure enough we changed direction towards our landing field. After using a bit too much Ripline to bring us down I had over corrected with the burner and needed to let more hot air out. As a result of this second rip we were still coming down as we approached the hedge to the landing field. We made contact, collecting a few leaves and twigs in the flying wires. Over the hedge we came and dropped down for a final landing. After giving the landowner and her two sons a short hop across the field in the basket we packed away and headed off to breakfast and for a debrief on flying and the art of topiary. I still maintain that a field boundary starts on the nearside of a hedgerow [Well, it does - as an engineering approximation!] but I'll try not to do it again.

Simon Jenkins

---

## BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL ASHTON COURT - 03 / 02 SEPTEMBER 2000

It would seem that every time the weather is unsuitable to Balloon is because it is too windy. A Friend recently suggested to me that I should join 'The Bristol University Kite Society' at next year's Freshers' Fair. This would mean that every time I was disappointed at not being able to Balloon I would be able to fly a kite. Food for thought. By the way, I have no idea if there actually is a Kite

---

## NOTES FROM THE NEW PUT - PETER DAVIES

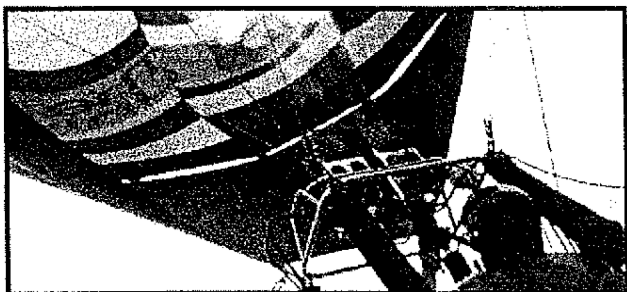
Simon Jenkins, the present PUT (Pilot under training) is about to undergo the rigorous trials known as the flight exams to be promoted into the ranks of the mysterious sect called "Pilots" that huddle together in muddy fields like some kind of ancient ceremony. Simon will soon be able to perform the launch site ritual himself, offering a small helium filled party balloon to the mystical force called the 'low level wind' in the hope that as it disappears into the distant blue sky a sign will be given to indicate that it will be flyable. So as his tests drew nearer it was time for the committee to appoint another apprentice to train as a BUHABS' Pilot.

I was lucky enough to be selected as the next PUT and learn how to fly the BUHABS way. Unlike most PUT's in the club who have only experienced hot air ballooning for about a year before their first training flight, I was born and

bred in the sport and so have an unfair advantage. Not only do I have the legacy of the BUHABS pilots to uphold but also I have the family tradition to uphold. I will be a pilot like my brother and our father before us.

Our family became involved in Hot air ballooning in 1987 (I was six years old) when my parents were visiting family down in Devon. A Bristolian pilot by the name of Bernard Petteford and his wife Ruth used our relatives' field to launch their balloon and my parents chased the balloon across Dartmoor and were there when the balloon landed. The Pettefords came up to Chatsworth show in the Peak District (where I am from) later in the year and asked if we could crew for them. At the meet my father was introduced to many local balloonists and he was fortunate enough to meet another couple, Bob and Fiona Ollier,

who were willing to train him to fly in return for regular crewing. A year later my father checked out and we bought our first family balloon.



In 1989 one of my older Brothers, Charles, was excepted by Bristol University to study Electrical Engineering and so naturally with his interest in ballooning joined BUHABS. He was later invited to go on the BUHABS summer trip to Lorraine 91, which is one of the worlds largest meets held in Metz, France. Our family was looking to go on holiday to a foreign balloon meet that summer so we accompanied BUHABS on the holiday and so started my family's long running traditions with BUHABS. That year my brother started training with BUHABS.

BUHABS returned to Metz two years later for the 1993 event with an even bigger team and yet again we went with them. Since then we

have been to Luxembourg in 1994, Todi, Italy in 1996, Vermenton, France again in 1997 and finally Le Puy, France yet again in 1998 on Buhabs trips. Each year the trips seem to get bigger and better as old BUHABS members bring their own teams and new members join the BUHABS crew on their expeditions. Paul Spellward, BUHABS Senior Pilot and Elaine, Paul's wife still go on many journeys each year to foreign balloon meets with my parents, carrying on the tradition started in 1991.

Last year I began at U.W.E, Bristol and became a committed member of BUHABS the first chance I had and am thrilled to be able to carry on the legacy that has been laid down before me. Although I have only been out flying or crewing a few times so far this year with BUHABS I have had the chance to see more of what goes on behind the scenes. I had never realised the amount of organising that goes in to running a society as successful as ours and I am looking forward to taking up the position of Secretary on the committee next year. For the club to keep running as smoothly as it always has done we do need support from you the existing members and for new members to join, so please keep signing up and encourage others to come along. Who knows you might become the next BUHABS

Peter Davies

## CAPTION COMPETITION

### WIN AN ALCHOHOLIC BEVERAGE!

The espionage division of BUHABS, 'Special Retrieval', has recently aquired the attached photograph. Unfortunately we are unable to reveal the location where the picture was taken, or the identity of the young fellow framed within.

However, we think it's rather amusing and would like you to think up a caption to go with it. Just write it in the space below or jot it on a bit of paper and bring it along to the 'Curry and A Club' night on Wednesday 14 June. The best will win a free drink of their choice.

YOUR NAME -





## MILLENNIUM SUMMER BALLOONING

Sorry, I can't resist sticking millennium or 2000 in at every opportunity. Here is a comprehensive list of Ballooning events across the U.K. this summer. Hopefully there may be something of interest to everyone. As mentioned earlier, BUHABS will be at the Bristol & Northampton Balloon fiesta's.

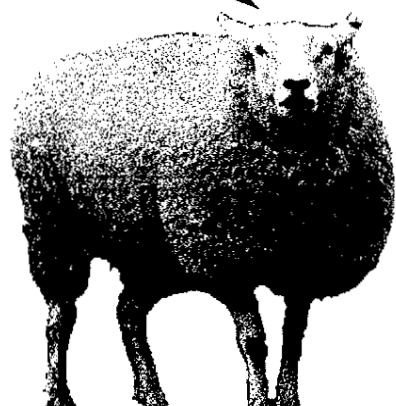
<b>JUNE 30 - JULY 02</b>	<b>Southampton Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>JULY 14 - JULY 16</b>	<b>Weston Balloon Fiesta (No, not Weston-Super-Mare but Weston-Under-Lizard, Shropshire)</b>
<b>JULY 14 - JULY 16</b>	<b>Huddersfield Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>JULY 21 - JULY 23</b>	<b>Longleat Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>JULY 28 - JULY 30</b>	<b>Eastnor Castle Balloon Meet</b>
<b>JULY 28 - JULY 30</b>	<b>Aberdeen Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>AUG 04 - AUG 06</b>	<b>Balloons over Basingstoke</b>
<b>AUG 10 - AUG 13</b>	<b>Bristol Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>AUG 18 - AUG 20</b>	<b>Northampton Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>AUG 25 - AUG 27</b>	<b>North London Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>AUG 25 - AUG 27</b>	<b>Aviemore Balloon Fiesta</b>
<b>SEP 01 - SEP 03</b>	<b>North Wales Balloon Meet</b>



## LANDOWNER RELATIONS

To end on a humorous note, I hope you enjoy the following I took from our website. Remember, we are at best uninvited guests when we land on someone's property, so it's important to be courteous and respect the landowner at all times. To this effect here are a few things NOT to say to a farmer...

**I LOVE HOT AIR  
BAAAALLOONS!**



"We landed here because this field is poor quality and worthless"  
 "Well, the animals should have been fenced in properly in the first place"  
 "The little boy over there said it was okay to drive our van on"  
 "It does the animals good to have a run around now and then"  
 "I can't be to blame if all your animals are abnormally nervous"  
 "So really, by driving our van around your field we are helping you plough it"  
 "Come now, it is but a mere vegetable"  
 "Wait a minute, we haven't opened our champagne yet"  
 "Look, do you want a BUHABS mug, or what?"  
 "There's no pleasing some people; most people would be overjoyed to have a balloon land on their property"

If you have any comments, queries, or quarrels with The Ripline (or if you feel like flexing your literary talents and writing an article yourself!) please don't hesitate to email me (John Burnett) at the following address: [REDACTED]

# *The Ripline* SUMMER AVAILABILITY

Please fill in the slip below indicating when you will be free for Ballooning and be in the Bristol area.

RETURN THE SLIP BY JULY 14 TO SIMON JENKINS AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

When there are slots available and you have indicated you are free you will then be contacted. If your availability changes or you would like to find out about upcoming flights then contact either Simon or Rowan at the addresses below. This is the best way to ensure you are included.

**JUNE 26 - JULY 16 CONTACT:**

**JULY 16 - SEPTEMBER 31 CONTACT:**

PLEASE KEEP THIS SIDE SOMEWHERE SAFE

PLEASE DETATCH THIS SIDE AND POP IT IN THE POST TO SIMON



	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
JUNE						24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		
JULY						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
AUGUST		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
SEPTEMBER					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

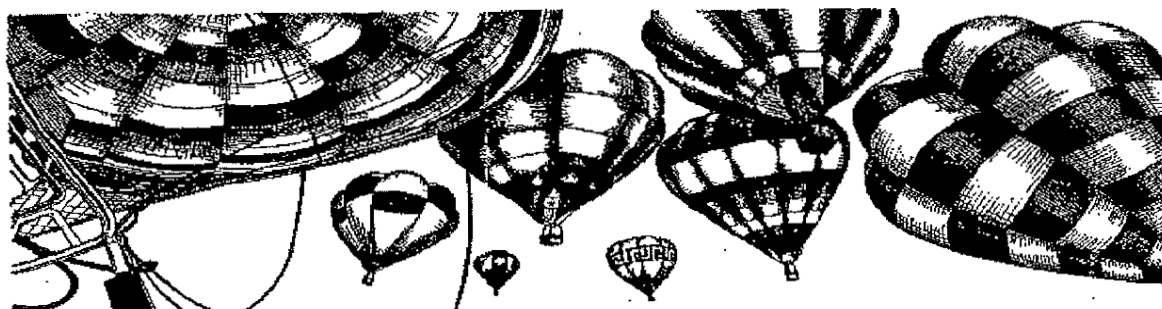
CONTACT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Bristol University Hot Air Ballooning Society*



**BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY**

## *BUHABS Membership form 2000/2001*

Please complete and return this form to the membership secretary (address below) if you wish to rejoin BUHABS for the 2000/2001 season.

Surname:		
First Name(s):		
Address:		
Postcode:		
Home Tel:		
Work Tel:		
E-mail:		
Department:		
UG/PG/Staff/Other		
Year of Study:		
Age:		
Amount due:	(£30.00 per member)	
Method of Payment:	CASH*	CHEQUE*

\*- Please circle as appropriate

